

May 26, 2010

STATEMENT BY THE TRIBAL LEADERS OF:

**Gun Lake Tribe of Pottawatomi Indians
Nottaweseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe**

On the hearing before the House Regulatory Reform Committee on the Little River Gaming Compact with the State of Michigan

We are strongly opposed to this gaming compact because it violates the trust that Indian tribes have established with the people of Michigan to conduct gaming on our reservation lands.

All of the tribes in Michigan have signed gaming compacts with the State, including the Little River Band, which promise in writing that we would not conduct gaming off our reservation lands without the agreement of all the tribes. This compact provision was put in place to prevent tribes from opening casinos anywhere and anyplace in Michigan. It was simple, logical and it worked. And we all agreed to abide by it -- until today.

It is unfortunate that Governor Granholm, in the waning days of her Administration, would sign a document that would seriously weaken the significant public support for Indian gaming and undermine the promise we all made to our communities that we would conduct gaming on our lands. Her unwarranted actions also violate the agreement the State signed with all the tribes to prevent this type of activity. Indian people should not have to put up with more broken promises.

Legislative consideration of this gaming compact is premature because the Little River Band may never gain trust land eligible for gaming. In fact, it is the current policy of the U.S. Department of Interior not to consider any gaming compact until the land is in trust.

Let us be clear. There is nothing unique about this compact. There is nothing special about this casino proposal. But you can be assured of one thing -- if the Michigan State Legislature approves this compact, almost every tribe in Michigan will be lined-up outside the State Capitol looking for their own off-reservation casino. Then it will be too late.